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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 28, 1979

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Honorable Ira A. Brown, Jr.
Superior Court of the State of California
for the City and County of San Francisco
Department 9, City Hall
San Francisco, California 94102

Re: People's Temple of the Disciples of Christ, Petitioner, vs. The Attorney General of the State of California, Respondent, No. 746-571

Dear Judge Brown:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with certain information and statistics which will be of assistance to the above-captioned proceeding.

After the hearing Monday evening, I contacted Department of State officials to ascertain as up-to-date statistics as possible. I was advised that, as of the end of yesterday, the remains of 561 Jonestown, Guyana tragedy victims are now at the United States Air Force Base, Dover, Delaware.

Of the 561 bodies, 308 have been identified and have not been claimed. The next of kin or legal representatives of 286 of the identified deceased have been located and contacted. In other words, we have been unable to locate or contact next of kin for 21 of the identified decedents. However, I would like to point out that all 21 of these identified deceased are from California. In fact, our records indicate that a vast majority of the identified decedents and their next of kin are from California.

Of the 561 bodies remaining at Dover Air Force Base, 253 have yet to be identified. However, with few exceptions, we are aware of the names of the 253 bodies but in connection with the United States Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, in their continuing identification process, we have been unable to match the decedent's name to a certain body among the 253. This, then, is why these decedents are considered to be classified as unidentified. Our awareness of the names of the unidentified decedents is based upon the following information or a combination thereof:

1. United States passports found at Jonestown, Guyana after the tragedy;

2. Immigration records of the Government of Guyana;

3. Telephone calls or other communications from persons who knew such relatives were in Jonestown.

The next of kin have been located and/or contacted for approximately 227 of these unidentified decedents. Our records indicate that a vast majority of the next of kin now reside in California. Of the 253 unidentified deceased, our records indicate that at least 203 are from California. And, the results of telephone calls and other communications received in the Department of State from next of kin or other interested parties inquiring about the status of the identification process of the remaining unidentified bodies, have shown that most callers have expressed a desire to have the bodies whether identified or unidentified interred in California.

These conclusions are based on one or more of the following items of evidence:

1. United States passports of the decedents found at Jonestown, Guyana indicated California as the place of birth;

2. United States passport applications completed by the decedent indicated a California address as place of residence and/or a California resident as contact in the event of emergency;

3. Evidence of identification presented upon the application for United States passport was a California issued document such as a California driver's license;

4. The United States passports found at Jonestown, Guyana for the decedents were issued in California;

5. Telephone calls and other information communicated to us by the decedent's next of kin presently residing in California;

6. Records of other identified deceased family members from California, as outlined in items 1 through 5, supra, indicate the names and prior California residence of the unidentified decedents.

Our records additionally show that many next of kin located in California, because of family composition, may have deceased relatives who have been identified as well as deceased relatives who have not been identified.

I trust this information complies with your request. I again thank you for the opportunity to be of assistance. If the Department of State can provide further clarification or information please do not hesitate to call upon us. I can be reached at (202) 632-2837.

Sincerely,

Carmen A. DiPlacido

Carmen A. DiPlacido
Office of Citizen's Consular Services

cc: Mr. John E. Wahl, Emergency Relief Committee

Mr. Robert Fabian, c/o Sullivan, Roche and Johnson

Mr. Miles A. Cobb, c/o Bronson, Bronson and McKinnon